



Education Technology



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Education Technology
Program Officer

NASA Headquarters

Working as Education Technology Program Officer, I provide leadership and guidance to the officials responsible for NASA field centers' online educational resources, and I manage major educational technology (multi-year, multi-billion dollar) research grants. I thus serve as the official NASA spokesperson before the President and Congress, as well as the Agency expert, and national authority on matters related to educational technology. My responsibilities include formulating policy, program direction, budget allocation, and workplan execution, on NASA-wide educational technology programs and activities, providing linkages across different NASA Education Program categories and centers.

Areas of expertise:

- Organization and resource skills
- Project management: product design, development, evaluation
- Instructional/Curriculum Support and Materials Development
- Teacher Preparation/Enhancement Services and Student Programs
- Education Technology

How I first became interested in this profession:

My interest has always been with people and seeking experiences that allowed me to support the improvement of persons in a way that the end result was a positive return or contribution to the larger system. This personal value has taken me down a number of different branches of the same professional path—the path of education.

What helped prepare me for this job:

I've worked over twenty years in the field of education, from local district to federal-level positions, and throughout my career, I learned to devote my efforts to projects that captivated my heart and soul. **Belief** fuels **passion**, and passion rarely fails! My exemplary work, organization, resource, interpersonal, and leadership skills qualified me for senior level leadership positions within NASA, and in 1999 I was given the post of NASA Education Technology Program Officer.

My role models or inspirations:

No one person has served as a role model for me. Instead, I look at the spirit of individuals, and find myself drawn to those that exhibit a passion for life and for what they do. **Attitude** is everything. More than any other characteristic, quality, or trait of human personality, an attitude of positive expectancy is the companion of **success** in every achievement, every worthwhile venture, every upward step in human progress.

My education and training:

- B.S in Early and Middle Childhood Education, Ohio State University
- M.A. in Educational Policy and Leadership, Ohio State University
- Ph.D. in Instructional Systems and Distance Education Certification, Pennsylvania State University

My career path:

- Six years as Elementary and Middle School Educator, Newport News Public Schools, Newport, VA
- Ten years as Education/Information Specialist at the Peninsula Area Co-op Education, then NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA
- Four years as the NASA Pre-college Officer, NASA Langley Center
- Two years as the NASA Educational Technology Program Officer, NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

What I like about my job:

I like EVERY aspect of my job. I like founding **new ventures**, inventing, designing, and developing **new products**, and gathering outside information with which to enrich NASA products and programs. I enjoy **leading** by motivating, and creating, articulating, and sustaining a program **vision** with which to lead others.

What I don't like about my job:

There is very little I don't enjoy in my work. Overseeing procedural matters, and monitoring schedules and products are not my favorite tasks because I don't find them terribly dynamic or stimulating. Still, I don't dislike these important functions, which also give me satisfaction.

My advice to anyone interested in this occupation:

In the society we live in today, we are constantly bombarded with reminders of what we do not possess. It is important to be reminded of what we do have—**freedom** and **choice**. We have **love** and **friendship** to help us through hard times as we search for what is the right place for each of us. Choice is our most significant and powerful possession. Whatever direction you choose to take in your life, remember that you are in control of your own destiny. Enjoy the wonderful journey!